

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 74-77, 79-107, and 109-159 were pending in this application. Claims 109, 134, 143, 144, 158 and 159 have been cancelled in this amendment. Claims 81, 84 and 86 are being amended herein. Accordingly, claims 74-77, 79-107, 110-133, 135-142 and 145-157 remain pending.

In response to the Office Action Mailed January 26, 2005, reconsideration is requested in light of the following remarks.

In the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, claims 134, 143, 158 and 159 were objected to as being substantial duplicates of claim 75, and claims 109 and 144 were objected to as being substantial duplicates of claim 79. In response, applicants have cancelled the foregoing objected-to claims, with applicants reserving the right to reintroduce them in this or any other application.

The Office Action dated January 26, 2005 also objected to claims 81, 84 and 86 on the grounds that there was no antecedent basis for "step." In response, these claims have been amended herein to eliminate the disputed term.

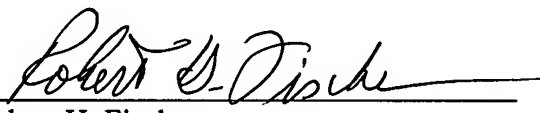
Accordingly, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance. In this regard, applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner directing their attention to 37 C.F.R. § 41.202 relating to the procedure for suggesting an interference. However, given the number of interfering claims and patents, it is respectfully suggested that an interview first be conducted, with the Examiner and possibly other PTO personnel such as the SPrE, to determine the PTO's preferences for the interference papers, including the substance and number of counts, and similar matters. It is believed that such an

interview will frame the interference in a manner better suited to the PTO's needs, and thereby get the case ready for the interference more rapidly and efficiently.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a further interview to frame the interference.

Should the Examiner have any question at all, he is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert H. Fischer
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 30,051

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112-3800
(212) 218 2100
(212) 218 2200 (facsimile)

NY_MAIN 453736v1